threat to ecology, environment and surroundings on account of damage to stilling basin.

Old age pension

4269. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are more than five crore people beyond the age of 60 years in the country at present;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only nine per cent of these people are covered by the old age pension scheme;

(c) whether Government are considering to bring gradually more people under the old age pension scheme; and

(d) what other welfare measures are in the offing in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) The age date of 1991 census is under process. However, according to the Registrar General's projections the proportion of aged people to the total population has increased from 6.2 per cent in 1981 to 6.5 per cent in 1991.

(b) to (d) The Central Government has no scheme for grant of old age pension. A Committee has been set-up to operationalise the announcement made by the Finance Minister in regard to National Social Assistance Scheme. One of the components of the scheme is the provision of a national minimum old age pension of Rs. 75/- per month to people above 65 years of age who are below the poverty line. However, the State Governments/Urban Territories are giving old age pension at varying scales. The Central Government has formulated a scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to the Aged, which is being implemented since 1993-94. Under this scheme the voluntary organisations are given 90 per cent grant-in-aid (95 per cent in respect of tribal areas) for running Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units for providing physical, social, emotional and economic support to the Aged with a view to help them to continue to be useful and active members of the community.

The Government have, however, no data regarding percentage of coverage of the aged under the old age pension scheme of the State Governments.

Implementation of social welfare Programmes

4270. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government policy envisages promotion and development of voluntary efforts for implementation of social welfare programmes falling under the ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether it is also a fact that voluntary efforts in respect of several social welfare activities are also funded by international organisations, including respective wings of UNO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of voluntary organisations who were given financial assistance by the Ministry of Welfare for implementation of Social Wel-